

DANISH SPECIES.

DYSCHIRIUS.

A. *Superior palparia* on both pair of palpi of the male very large, extending over the whole length of the joint.

a. *Clypeus* tridentate. *Ligula* extended at the apex, with pointed corners. *Marginal striæ* of *pronotum* continued past the second pair of bristle-points. *Marginal striæ* of *elytra* continued to the base of the latter. External teeth of *anterior tibiæ* pointed. *Pronotum* round. *Elytra* ovate.

1. *D. thoracicus*, Fabr., fr. 2. *D. obscurus*, Gyllh., fr.

b. *Clypeus* bidentate. *Ligula* gradually attenuated, with round apex. *Marginal striæ* of *pronotum* terminating in the second pair of bristle-points. *Marginal striæ* of *elytra* ceasing at the shoulder. External teeth of *anterior tibiæ* pointed. *Pronotum* oblong, round. *Striæ* of *elytra* deeply punctate, smooth towards the apex.

3. *D. æneus*, Dej., fr. 4. *D. salinus*, Er., fr.

c. *Clypeus* bidentate. *Ligula* gradually acuminate, with round apex. *Marginal striæ* of *pronotum* wanting. *Marginal striæ* of *elytra* ceasing at the shoulder. External teeth of *anterior tibiæ* obtuse.

5. *D. gibbus*, Fabr.

B. *Superior palparia* on the labial palpi very large, extending over the whole length of the joints, those on the maxillary palpi reduced to a small spot behind the apex of the joint.

Clypeus bidentate. *Ligula* gradually acuminate, with round apex. *Marginal striæ* of *pronotum* continued beyond the second pair of bristle-points. *Marginal striæ* of *elytra* ceasing at the shoulder. External teeth of *anterior tibiæ* indistinct. *Pronotum* oblong.

6. *D. inermis*, Curt., r. 7. *D. politus*, Dej., m. fr. 8. *D. impunctipennis*, Daws. (Geod. Brit. 29. 6 = *arenosus*, Putz., *levistriatus*, Fairm. & Laboulb.), fr.

VII.—Description of a new Australian Tortoise (*Elseya latisternum*). By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S. &c.

IN the 'Annals and Magazine of Natural History' for 1863, vol. xii. pp. 98 & 246, I described a species of *Chelymys* under the name of *Chelymys dentata*. In that paper I proposed to divide the genus into two sections, the one having and the other being destitute of a nuchal shield. In the collection from North Australia there are two specimens of the animal in spirits, which show that the animals of the *Chelymydes* without a nuchal shield differ greatly from those of the typical *Chelymys*; and they are particularly interesting (as forming a passage between the *Hydraspides* of Australia and South America) in having a pair of beards in the front of the chin, a warty upper surface to the neck, and scaly temples—all characters absent in most of the Australian species, but generally present in those genera of the

family peculiar to South America. They thus combine with the habit and structure of the Australian genera some of the technical characters of the South American.

I am therefore inclined to form for these a new genus, which I propose to name (after my late friend, who lost his life in attempting to increase our knowledge of the zoological productions of Australia) *ELSEYA*, and which may be thus characterized:—

Nose and crown of the head covered with a smooth skin; temple, cheek, and throat covered with flat polygonal plates; tympanum flat; chin two-bearded; upper side of the neck warty. Shell convex, expanded and subdentate behind; sides slightly revolute; nuchal shield none; front of the cavity rather contracted. Vertebral column short, keeled within; sternum solid, rather narrow, with shelving side-wings; gular shield elongate, small, marginal. Tail short, thick, concave; claws $5/4$, acute.

Hab. Australia.

This genus contains two species:—

1. *Elseya dentata*.

Chelymys dentata, Gray, Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. 1863, vol. xii. pp. 98, 246.

The front of the sternum narrow, half-ovate, with the sides rapidly contracted in front; the gular shield very narrow, elongate.

Hab. North Australia, Upper Victoria (Dr. Elsey).

There is a series of three shells of this species in the British Museum, young, middle-aged, and adult. The plates of the under surface of the two younger specimens are pale, and do not appear to have a dark edge as is the case with the two half-grown specimens of the next species. The adult shell is black brown above and below, varied with pale brown on the middle of the sternum.

2. *Elseya latisternum*.

The front lobe of the sternum broad, nearly semicircular in front; the gular shield as broad as the side shield, and rather short; the plate on the under surface yellow, with narrow dark edges to the shields; hinder margin of the shell dentated.

Hab. North Australia.

There are two specimens of this species in the Museum; they are at once known from *E. dentata* by the greater comparative breadth of the sternum, which is most marked in the form of the front lobe, though common to all its parts.

The shells of the two specimens vary considerably in form, one being much broader compared with the length than the

other ; and also, on the surface, one has the shields of the back of the shell nearly smooth, and the other covered with close sunken dots.

The animal is dark slate-coloured above, and paler grey beneath. There is a broad well-marked white streak from the hinder angle of the mouth, margining the underside of the tympanum and extending nearly to the middle of the base of the front legs ; the hind legs have a series of rather large prominent scales from the outer side of the knee to the base of the outer toes, which are largest near the toes ; tail short, with two series of shields on the underside, behind the vent.

VIII.—*Additions to the knowledge of Australian Reptiles and Fishes*. By ALBERT GÜNTHER, M.A., M.D., Ph.D., F.R.S.

THE British Museum has received in the course of the last three or four years various collections of reptiles and fishes from Australia, and quite recently one made at Champion Bay and Nicol Bay (Western and North-western Australia) by Mr. Duboulay, and two others brought by Hr. Dämel from Cape York and Port Denison. The following notes were made during the arrangement of these specimens ; and, besides the new species, only those are mentioned which were either previously desiderata in the British Museum, or for which new localities can be given.

TORTOISES.

1. *Elseya latisternum*.

See the preceding paper by Dr. Gray.

LIZARDS.

2. *Odatria punctata* (Gray).

West and North Australia.

Var. *timoriensis*. Timor, Torres Straits.

3. *Odatria ocellata* (Gray) = ? *O. tristis* (Schleg.).

West and North-west coast of Australia (Nicol Bay, Duboulay).

Distinguished by the large spines of the tail.

4. *Pygopus lepidopus* (Lac.).

Pygopus squamiceps (Gray).

Swan River, Champion Bay, Sydney, Van Diemen's Land.

5. *Lygosoma laterale*, sp. n.

Habit slender ; limbs feeble, fore limbs equal in length to the



Gray, John Edward. 1867. "Description of a new Australian tortoise (*Elseya latisternum*)." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 20, 43–45.

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